

Lesbian/Gay Pride 2000 - Honoring Our Lesbian Sisters

OUT OF TIME

Issue No. 53 *Out of Control--Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners* June 2000



SUSAN ROSENBERG

by B. C. Zeller

For Susan Rosenberg, a lesbian and political prisoner, the months before the celebration of Gay Pride 2000 were marked by enormous challenges. While escalating her efforts to obtain freedom, Susan completed a master's degree program in creative writing from Antioch College and taught the Black History curriculum for the women at Danbury Federal Correctional Institution. Susan was also facing a medical ordeal. In April, a doctor advised she needed a mastectomy. Susan was put on alert she would be immediately transferred to Carswell, Texas for surgery. Susan and her support committee sprung into action to try to prevent the transfer, while trying to obtain a second medical opinion. In fact, a few days later the written pathology report had a different diagnosis of "lobular carcinoma-in-situ". This condition is a "marker" for a greatly increased risk of developing cancer in one or both breasts. This diagnosis was confirmed by the second opinion. The political and legal pressure brought to bear prevented the transfer for the unnecessary surgery

at the last minute. Susan will need very careful medical monitoring to detect cancer if it develops - a necessity that is virtually impossible while incarcerated.

Since January, Susan has been escalating her campaign for release. In 1999, the U.S. Parole Commission determined that after 14 years in prison she deserved immediate parole based on the New Jersey possession of explosive charges. However, at the same time, the Commission, relying solely on a letter from the federal prosecutors in New York, determined that Susan was guilty of previously dismissed Brink's conspiracy charges and therefore should serve an extra 15 years in prison. In essence, Susan was sentenced to another 15 years in prison based solely on the government allegations that she was guilty of the very charges that the government had dismissed in 1985. Susan's lawyers filed a motion to challenge the extra 15 years. In May, Judge Haight, who originally granted the dismissal of the Brink's charges in 1985, ruled that there were grave injustices in her case, but provided no remedy.

With this defeat, Susan once again squared her shoulders and resurrected her sense of humor as she has done so many times before. She is now beginning a campaign for sentence commutation addressed to President Clinton, a strategy for release that is being attempted by many of the federally-held political prisoners over the next 6 months.

For more information and ways to help, write to: The Committee to Release Susan Rosenberg, 78 Bank Street - Suite 6, NY, NY 10014.

LINDA EVANS

Have a great Gay Pride Day!

The origin of this celebration is based in resisting our oppression as lesbians and gay men and building a movement to win Gay Liberation. More than just to show our "visibility," the first of these marches made demands about our community's needs. Gay men and lesbians were proud not only of our unique culture and community - we were proud to be allies of people fighting for freedom, both inside the US and around the world.

Have we given up this vision of liberation by fighting for assimilation into mainstream America. Does the commercialism, consumerism, and apathy so increasingly dominant in the gay community mean that we have become the blind allies of globalized capitalism, instead of allying with those who fight to stop it? Can we hold on to our vision of liberation as an urgent and real goal, not just a nostalgic memory of yesteryear?

All the political prisoners and POWs in US prisons were captured struggling for revolutionary changes that could transform our world. Although we come from different communities, we are united by our determination to build a

Mumia Recognized on Robben Island

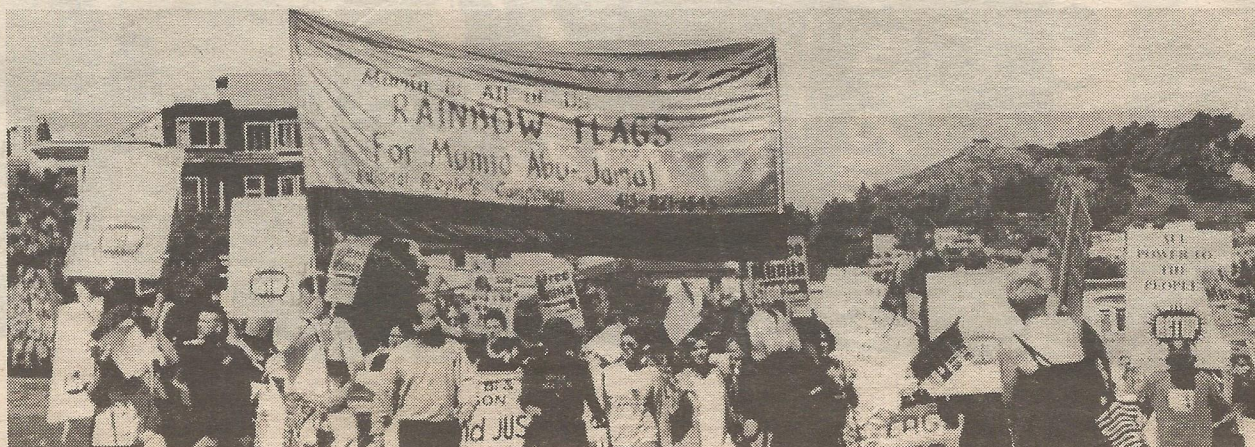
Our own Laura Whitehorn, anti-imperialist, dyke, ex-political prisoner extraordinaire was instrumentally involved in bringing a poster exhibition of art dedicated to Mumia Abu Jamal to South Africa. The opening of the art show coincided with an inter-faith church service held on Robben Island, South Africa on April 26, 2000. The keynote speaker was Anglican Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndugane. He said, "We remind our friends in the United States that Nelson Mandela and many other South Africans were saved from the gallows only because of the outrage expressed during the 1960's by the international community. Here on Robben Island we remember the brutality of the past, and commit ourselves that never, never again will such acts of inhumanity be repeated." Good work sister Laura



world where all are free to develop their potential, where nations have the power to safeguard the future of their people.

Many of you have been our allies through these hard years of imprisonment and isolation - I thank you all from the bottom of my heart. By continuing to build a resistance movement that has radical values and makes no compromise with racism, sexism, and class exploitation, you have supported the political prisoners the best way possible. Out of Control and LAGAI have stood strong on the side of liberation fighters and for prisoners' rights. Rainbow Flags for Mumia is working nationwide to rally support in the gay community for Mumia Abu - Jamal and to abolish the death penalty. We all need to unite to keep our hopes and energies strong - and to remember that GAY LIBERATION is not an abstract concept, but an urgent necessity.

Linda Evans, Lesbian, Anti-Imperialist political prisoner

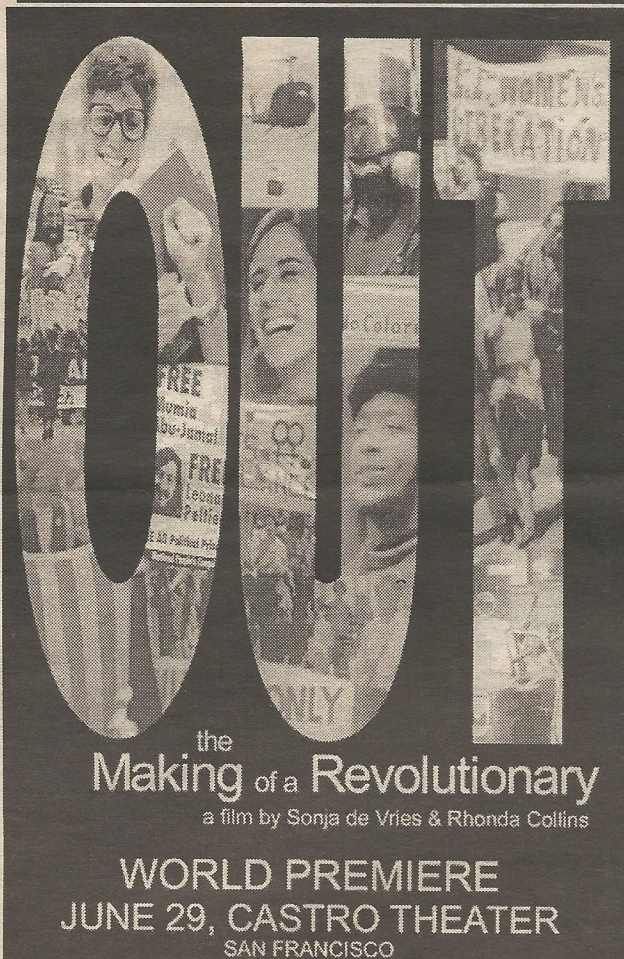


Out of Time
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OUT OF TIME



Laura Whitehorn, an out lesbian, spent 14 years in prison. OUT is the story of her life and our times: five tumultuous decades of struggle for freedom and justice.

World Premiere

Thursday, June 29

6:30pm Reception, 8:00pm Screening

Castro Theater, San Francisco

(Advance tickets available at Modern Times Books and A Different Light Bookstore) Info: (415) 248-1885

A Benefit for: The Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Friends of Marilyn Buck, Out of Control Lesbian Committee to Support Women Political Prisoners, Jericho Amnesty Movement, California Prison Focus, Critical Resistance and the October 22 Coalition Against Police Brutality.

Albert Nuh Washington

Nuh Abdul Qayyum

Revolutionary, Political Prisoner, Imam

Albert Nuh Washington (Nuh is Arabic for Noah), a devout Muslim, an active member of the Black Panther Party and later a member of the Black Liberation Army, died on April 8, 2000 in the long-term care unit at Cossackie Correctional Facility, NY. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and many comrades. Nuh will be missed and remembered by many for his strength, compassion, courage and life long commitment to the struggle against racism and injustice.

In 1975, during the FBI's infamous COINTELPRO (CounterINtelligence PROgram) operations, designed to neutralize and eliminate revolutionary Black leadership, Nuh, and his two co-defendants, Herman Bell and Jalil Abdul Muntaquin, were convicted of the murder of two New York police and sentenced to life in prison. Several campaigns to overturn the sentences have been unsuccessful and information which could have exonerated the "New York Three" has been quashed repeatedly.

Many thanks to those of you who wrote letters of support, fought for Nuh's transfer to Cossackie, attended the tribute to Nuh's life and work on April 22 in Oakland and donated generously. Contributions are still needed to help Nuh's family defray the costs of his funeral and burial. Please send donations to: Jericho/IFCO at Jericho, PO Box 650, New York, NY 10009.

DEMAND COMPASSION & RELEASE FOR CALIFORNIA PRISONERS!

by Judy Greenspan

Fight for the compassionate release of Kee Kee Sellers Keith Wayne Sellers (KeeKee) is a transgender prisoner at Corcoran state prison. He is 32 years old. He is dying of AIDS related complications and Valley Fever. He has only a couple of t-cells and a very high viral load. He cannot walk or sit up by himself. He wants to die outside of prison. You can Help!

Despite the support of prison doctors, the warden, family members, the judge, the district attorney and several state legislators, KeeKee's request for a compassionate release was recently turned down by California Department of Corrections Director Cal Terhune.

Director Terhune like others in Governor Gray Davis' administration are "politicians" first and compassionate human beings last. The CDC Director is violating the compassionate release legislation that went into law on January 1, 1998 by refusing to release this dying prisoner.

KeeKee clearly poses no threat to the community. He has a room waiting for him at a community hospice. His family wants him close to them as he approaches the end of his life.

You can help! Contact Director Terhune! Let him know that you support a compassionate release for KeeKee and that he should immediately reconsider his denial and grant early release for this prisoner.

CALL, WRITE, OR FAX TODAY: C.A. TERHUNE, DIRECTOR, California Department of Corrections, P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283, Tel: (916) 445-7688, Fax: (916) 322-2877

For more information contact the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, 2940 16th Street, #307, San Francisco, CA 94103; Tel/Fax (510) 665-1935; website: www.prisonfocus.org/hivin.htm

EDDIE HATCHER

Eddie Hatcher is a two spirit Indigenous man who is also HIV positive and he lives in north carolina. He has been charged with a murder. The evidence is more than strange; like ballistics errors and prosecutor misconduct. The state is seeking the death penalty. Robeson county, north carolina is notorious for its mishandling of cases. The state supreme court keeps appointing judges to come there to help out with the incredible backlog. These judges keep throwing up their hands after 6 months or less and leaving; unable to accomplish much of anything.

Eddie Hatcher has a long history of resistance to the criminal corruption in robeson county. He is acting as his own attorney and has won some recent battles concerning his conditions and availability to legal materials, etc. It has been more than 1 year now and 3 judges later and still no trial has been scheduled.

To learn more about how to support this gay brother write: Eddie Hatcher Defense Committee, box 2702, pembroke, n.c. 28732 or check out the website at www.eddiehatcher.org ...You can send reading materials & letters: Eddie Hatcher, robeson co. jail, 122 legend rd., lumberton, n.c. 28358

DEMAND AN END TO THE DEATH PENALTY WRITE or CALL TODAY!!!

Governor Gray Davis, State Capitol Building, Sacramento CA 95814, Phone: 916-445-2841

FREEDOM FOR LEONARD PELTIER:
ask for immediate parole or executive clemency
write the president, 1600 pennsylvania ave, n.w., wash d.c. 20500. (INFO: www.freepeltier.org.)

TARGETED & GAGGED

An Evening with Sara Jane Olson (AKA Kathleen Soliah)

Sara Jane Olson has been charged with conspiracy to place pipe bombs under L.A. police cars in 1975 while allegedly a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Although none of the bombs detonated and Sara has pleaded innocent, she is charged with attempted murder and is being implicated in 22 other felonies which the SLA allegedly committed. The judge in the case has imposed a sweeping gag order that prevents all parties connected with the case from discussing it in any way.

Saturday, July 1st, 7:30 at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., \$10. (no one turned away).

Sponsored by the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, National Lawyers Guild, Out of Control Lesbian Committee, & Jericho Amnesty Movement. For more info contact 415-255-7036 ext.4 or www.saraolsondefense.org

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PRISONERS!
Stop Governor Davis' Criminal Injustice Policies

JOIN A NATIONAL DAY OF PROTEST
Demonstrate at the Women's Prisons
Chowchilla, CA

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1pm

Chowchilla Demonstration coordinated by CA Coalition for Women Prisoners and California Prison Focus. For more information and directions call 415-255-7036 ext. 4 or (510) 665-1935. email: ccwp@igc.org, prisonfocus@energy-net.org

National Protest Sponsored by the Prison Reform Unity Project (PRUP) 2000. Demonstrations will be held at prisons throughout the United States on July 15. email: prup2000@hotmail.com

Carpools from Bay Area will meet in the Safeway Parking Lot (Church & Market) in San Francisco and MacArthur BART station in Oakland at 9:00 am.

OUR ANNUAL GAY PRIDE PHOTO/CENTERFOLD

IN 1999

* Laura Whitehorn was released from federal prison after serving over 14 years.

* After 17 years in US federal prisons, Italian national Silvia Baraldini was transferred to an Italian prison. This transfer was the result of a 10 year campaign.

* President Clinton granted conditional parole to 11 Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, five of whom are women. These independentistas served 19 years.

Our photo collage celebrates these historic events and we claim them as our victories. For without the serious commitment and hard work of thousands of us, Carmen Valentin, Dylcia Pagan, Alicia and Lucy Rodriguez and Alejandrina Torres would not be free and Silvia Baraldini would not be in an Italian prison.

And we dedicate this piece to all women prisoners and especially the women political prisoners who are still locked up: anti-imperialists Marilyn Buck, Linda Evans, Susan Rosenberg, the MOVE sisters: Debbie Sims Africa, Janine Phillips Africa, Janet Hollaway Africa, Plowshares resisters: Susan Crane, Elizabeth Walz and Michele Naar-Obed and Cuban political prisoner Ana Lucia Gelabert. Behind bars, they remain strong and their spirits are with us. this year by Jane and Bo